

CASTRO FREES 3 CIA AGENTS

Operatives Were Among 21
Americans Released

Washington, April 24 (AP)—Three Central Intelligence agents were among the American prisoners whom Fidel Castro swapped for four of his followers held in this country, congressional sources said today.

They said the Cuban Prime Minister was aware that some of the men he was turning loose worked for the CIA. But it was not clear whether he was certain of their identities.

The CIA declined to comment on the report, as did other Government officials.

But classified informants indicated that the secret agents were three men who figured in a sensational 1960 case in which the Cubans accused them of espionage. The top three of whom were on the list of prisoners returned this week were Daniel L. Carswell, of Eastchester, N.Y.; Eustace H. Danbrun, of Baltimore and Edward K. Taransky, of New York.

Spelling Variation

The names used by the Castro Government in 1960, however, had a spelling variation except for Carswell. The other two were listed as Eustace Dan Brunet and Edward K. Taransko.

Scraps-Howard Newspapers, in reporting earlier that CIA men were among the prisoners exchanged, said Castro didn't necessarily know who they were. But the Newhouse newspaper's Associated Press Service said he was aware that one of them was Carswell, supposedly an engineer but also a CIA undercover agent.

Castro was accused by Cuba of espionage directed against the New China News Service office. The Cuban Government said they were well-known experts and had tapped the agency.

In connection with the case, Cuban authorities held briefly, then exhibited a United States Embassy employee, Mrs. Margaret A. Leves, secretary to the communications attaché. The Cubans said she was working in her apartment in another apartment building where she lived.

Whereabouts Unknown

Carswell, Danbrun and Taransky all left Miami, Fla., yesterday without telling the Red Cross, which was helping the refugees, where they were going.

Members of Congress familiar with the situation said James R. Donovan, New York attorney, who arranged the swap with Castro, was acting under United States Government orders in making the arrangement he did. In all, 27 men were released by Havana, but only 21 returned to this country.

The Scraps-Howard dispatch said the United States agreed to the unusual exchange primarily to free the captured agents held in Castro dungeons with American adventurers and soldiers of fortune.

It was reported that Castro was especially anxious to gain the release of Francisco Molina Del

Rio, 31, a former Castro crony and bodyguard. He was serving a sentence of twenty years to life in New York for killing a 9-year-old girl during a brawl in New York between Castro Cubans and refugee Cubans.

Molina and three alleged saboteurs awaiting trial for plotting to blow up defense installations were flown from Florida to Havana yesterday.

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York commuted Molina's sentence with the understanding that he never come back to the United States. The Governor said he did so because the Federal Government had informed him it was "necessary in the national interest."

The Justice Department obtained dismissal of charges against two other Cuban nationals and a Cuban-American accused of sabotage conspiracy with the understanding that they leave the country immediately. Robert F. Kennedy, Attorney General, said the action was "deemed to be in the national interest."

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